Indian students killed in US

†1456. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the status of investigation of the number of Indian students who have been killed/murdered in the US in the recent months; and

(b) whether the US authorities both Federal and State are fully co-operating in these investigations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the recent past, four incidents have taken place in the US where Indian students have died:—

(i) On 16 April 2007, 33 persons in Virginia Tech University, including an Indian student Ms. Meenal Panchal, were killed. The police investigation concluded that the assailant, who later committed suicide, has committed the crime on his own.

(ii) On December 13-14, 2007, unknown assailants murdered Chandrasekhra Reddy Komma and Kiran Kumar Allam, both Ph. D. students, in the Louisiana State University campus in Louisiana. Police investigation is still continuing. No arest has yet been made in connection with this incident.

(iii) On January 17-18, 2008, Abhijit Mahto, an Indian student was shot and killed on the outskirts of Duke University in North Carolina. Police have arrested Stephen Oates for breaking into the appartment and killing Abhijit Mahto. The investigation is continuing.

(iv) Akkaldevi Srinivas, an Indian doctor pursuing his post-graduation in Internal Medicine in Pennsylvania was found dead on March, 1, 2008. Investigations are continuing.

Our Embassy and Consulates in the USA have in each instance closely coordinated between local authorities and the families of the victims, and rendered assistance.

Political Cimate in Myanmar

1457. DR VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Government is assessing the political climate in neighbouring Myanmar:

(b) the reasons Government not reacting to attack on the monks when they were participating in a non-violent protest;

(c) Government's official stand on Army rule in Myanmar; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) whether Government feels that the situation in Myanmar could affect the political climate of the Northeast States, which are already sensitive?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (d) Government have been in touch with the Myanmar Government at the highest levels on the recent developments in Myanmar. It is Government's view that the process of national reconciliation and political reform initiated by the Government of Myanmar should be taken forward expeditiously and should be inclusive and broad-based to include all sections of the society, including Aung San Suu Kyi and various ethnic groups. India supports the UN Secretary General's good offices and his Special Envoy Mr. Ibrahim Gambari's mission to Myanmar. We do not believe that sanctions will be useful in this situation. As a close and friendly neighbour, India has multi-dimensional linkages with Myanmar. Government are, consequently, mindful of the need for a peaceful and stable Myanmar.

YCL activists in Indian territory

1458. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Young Communist League (YCL) activists from Kakarvita in Nepal have entered border States such as West Bengal and Bihar and pitched three red flags-a national flag of Nepal, a Maoist flag and the YCL flag in the Indian territory;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Nepal Government has not been taking any interest in checking the anti-Indian propaganda being made by YCL activists; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and further steps taken by Government to take up the matter with the Nepalese Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On December 5, 2007, a group of about 20—25 Young Communist League (YCL) cadres crossed from Kakarvita, Nepal into the Indian territory near border pillar No. 49 upto the west bank of Mechi river and pitched three flags. The Indian border guarding forces took appropriate action to repulse the YCL activists and removed the flags.

(c) and (d) Such incidents have been taken up appropriately with the Government of Nepal, to ensure that they are not repeated and so that those responsible are dealt with.

Flow of tourists from Malaysia

1459. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growing ethnic Indian unrest in Malaysia and its Government's latest move to ban fresh recruitment of Indian workers has an adverse effect on the plans to woo tourists from this country;